



# Funding opportunities under Horizon Europe

Calls 2023



## Table of contents



Horizon Europe funding for agriculture, forestry and rural areas .....	2
The Cluster 6 Work Programme at a glance .....	4
Horizon Europe multi-actor projects .....	5
Thematic networks and advisory networks .....	6
Cluster 6 destinations .....	7
• Biodiversity and ecosystem services .....	8
• From farm to fork .....	9
• Developing a sustainable bioeconomy and clean environment .....	10
• Land, ocean and water for climate action .....	12
• Resilient communities and innovative governance models .....	13
What's new in Horizon Europe? .....	15



## Horizon Europe funding for agriculture, forestry and rural areas

Horizon Europe is the largest source of public funding for research and innovation from the European Commission. It has a budget of €95.5 billion, of which around €9 billion is dedicated to Cluster 6 on 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' for 2021-2027.

Through Cluster 6, Horizon Europe addresses issues that farmers, foresters and rural communities face. It funds projects to build innovative solutions together with researchers, advisors and other stakeholders, sharing knowledge and producing results that are ready to be put into practice.





Horizon Europe projects are actively supported by the EU CAP Network through innovation, knowledge exchange and the EIP-AGRI. Horizon Europe works across different themes to boost innovation.

This brochure highlights funding opportunities for agriculture, forestry and rural areas in Cluster 6 and other parts of the Horizon Europe Work Programme, and helps you find your way through the different calls for 2023.



Please be aware that only the officially published Work Programme text, budget and deadlines should be taken as a reference for any proposal preparation.

All applicants should consult the [Participant Portal](#) to find the latest version.







## ► The Cluster 6 Work Programme at a glance

The Work Programme of Horizon Europe Cluster 6 provides research and innovation opportunities that aim to reduce environmental degradation, halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity and improve the management of natural resources in urban and rural areas. It will help to ensure food and nutrition security for all within planetary boundaries, and a clean and healthy environment through knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture, food systems and forestry.

Cluster 6 projects support the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient circular economy and a sustainable bioeconomy.

Research and innovation activities under Cluster 6 will contribute to the objectives of the [European Green Deal](#) related to the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#), the [Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#), the [European Climate Pact](#), the [Long-term Vision for Rural Areas](#), the [Organic Action Plan](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).





Where applicable, MAAs are strongly recommended to connect with EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.

- ▶ [Browse the EIP-AGRI database](#) for an overview.

## ▶ Multi-actor projects involving the agricultural community

The Horizon Europe Work Programme includes many multi-actor approach (MAA) topics. In multi-actor proposals, the people who will benefit from the project solutions need to be involved from the start: from developing the idea to implementing activities and sharing, demonstrating and disseminating the results. This should lead to demand-driven, reliable and innovative solutions that are more likely to be applied in the field.

- ▶ Find a regularly updated [overview of multi-actor projects](#) on the EIP-AGRI website.

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“In our proposal, we paid special attention to the expected impact of our project, and we made sure that our communication, dissemination and exploitation activities formed a well thought-out part.”

- *Ambra De Simone, OrganicTargets4EU* -

- ▶ Get more tips and tricks on how to write a successful project proposal on the [EU CAP Network website](#).



Throughout their life cycle, MAA projects must share findings and practical recommendations through short 'practice abstracts'. These are shared at EU level following the [EIP-AGRI common format](#).



## ► Thematic networks compiling knowledge ready for practice

Thematic networks (TN) are a particular type of multi-actor project. They collect and develop existing scientific knowledge and best practices that are insufficiently known or ready for farmers, foresters and rural communities to implement.

Thematic networks must translate this knowledge into easily understandable material, which should remain available beyond the lifespan of the project.

- Browse [thematic networks](#) on the EIP-AGRI website.

## ► Stronger AKIS through advisory networks

The Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027) strengthens Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) across EU Member States, speeding up innovation and the uptake of research and innovation in the field.

Advisory support is essential in a well-functioning AKIS. Three topics in the '[Innovative governance](#)' destination focus on developing EU-wide Advisory Networks (AN) on organic agriculture, reducing pesticide use and optimal fertiliser use.

- More inspiration can be found in the [EIP-AGRI AKIS brochure](#)

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“Our project will build on existing knowledge and networks, with a strong bottom-up logic. We aim to work in close collaboration with sister projects from the very start of the project, to maximise efficiency and positive impacts.”








- Louise Mehauden,  
*[EU4Advice](#), EU advisory  
network on consumer-  
producer chains -*






## ► Cluster 6 destinations



The Cluster 6 Work Programme is structured into seven different 'destinations':

897M€  
2023

Destinations	
	Biodiversity and ecosystem services (BIODIV)
	Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption (FARM2FORK)
	Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors (CircBio)
	Clean environment and zero pollution (ZEROPOLLUTION)
	Land, ocean and water for climate action (CLIMATE)
	Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities (COMMUNITIES)
	Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal (GOVERNANCE)

Thematic areas	
	Organics
	Forestry
	Digital solutions
	Energy
	AKIS

**RIA** = Research and Innovation Action

**CSA** = Coordination and Support Action

**IA** = Innovation Action






## Biodiversity and ecosystem services

The 'Biodiversity and ecosystem services' destination will help develop practices in agriculture and forestry that support the sustainable use of biodiversity and a wide range of ecosystem services. Topics in this destination aim to preserve and restore biodiversity and essential ecosystems while ensuring resilient primary production, through improved knowledge and innovation.



**184M€**  
**2023**

Acronym HORIZON-CL6-2023-	Topic	Topic budget Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Biodiversity and ecosystem services</b>		
<b>BIODIV-01-13</b> RIA MAA	Crop wild relatives for sustainable agriculture	12 6
<b>BIODIV-01-14</b> RIA MAA	Biodiversity friendly practices in agriculture - breeding for Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	10 5
<b>BIODIV-01-15</b> CSA MAA 	Integrative forest management for multiple ecosystem services and enhanced biodiversity	7 7
<b>BIODIV-01-16</b> RIA MAA	Valorisation of ecosystem services provided by legume crops	10 5

**Deadline for calls mentioned in this destination: 28 March 2023**




# From farm to fork

Topics that come under this destination speed up the transition to more resilient and sustainable food systems. It will empower farmers and foresters through nature-based, technological, digital and social innovations. This will increase climate resilience and reduce dependence on pesticides and antimicrobials. It will also provide consumers with safe, nutritious and healthy food from farm to fork.



196,5M€  
2023


Acronym HORIZON-CL6-2023-	Topic	Topic budget Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption</b>		
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-3</a> CSA MAA 	Improving yields in organic cropping systems	8 4
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-4</a> CSA MAA	Towards research and innovation beyond Farm to Fork Strategy targets for pesticides after 2030	1 1
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-5</a> RIA	Advancing vaccine development for African swine fever	12 6
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-6</a> RIA MAA	Towards sustainable livestock systems: European platform for evidence building and transitioning policy	5 5
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-7</a> IA MAA	Innovations in plant protection: alternatives to reduce the use of pesticides focusing on candidates for substitution	12 6
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-15</a> RIA MAA	Fostering resilient European food systems in a changing world	8 8
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-17</a> CSA	EU-AU cooperation - linking the activities of the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership and those of the Pan-African Network for Economic Analysis of Policies (PANAP)	4 4
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-18</a> CSA	Support for the implementation of a sustainable platform for the EU-AU cooperation under the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership	4 4
<a href="#">FARM2FORK-01-19</a> IA MAA	Support to the markets and trade in agroecological food products under the Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA) partnership	7 7
<b>Deadline for calls mentioned in this destination: 12 April 2023</b>		

# Developing a sustainable bioeconomy and a clean environment

Improving knowledge and innovative technologies is key in developing the circular use of natural resources and unlocking the potential of a sustainable bioeconomy. By reducing emissions and waste, and by limiting our dependence on non-renewable resources, we can prevent pollution, ensure competitiveness in primary production, forestry and sustainable bio-based systems, and guarantee healthy soils, fresh air and water, and a clean environment.



**178,5M€**  
**2023**

Acronym HORIZON-CL6-2023-	Topic	Topic budget Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors</b>		
CircBio-01-9 RIA MAA	Business models that balance the share of power and profit in the bioeconomy	8 4
CircBio-01-12 RIA MAA 	Optimising the sustainable production of wood and non-wood products in small forest properties and development of new forest-based value chains	12 6
CircBio-01-13 RIA MAA 	Capturing market trends and societal perceptions for tailor-made forest ecosystem services	12 6
CircBio-01-14 RIA MAA 	Monitoring the multi-functionality of European forests	4 4
<b>Deadline for calls mentioned in this destination: 28 March 2023</b>		





**79,5M€**  
**2023**

Acronym HORIZON-CL6-2023-	Topic	Topic budget Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Clean environment and zero pollution</b>		
ZEROPOLLUTION-01-1 RIA	Knowledge and innovative solutions in agriculture for water availability and quality	6 6
<b>Deadline: 28 March 2023</b>		
ZEROPOLLUTION-02-01-two-stage RIA MAA	Optimisation of manure use along the management chain to mitigate GHG emissions and minimize nutrients/contaminants dispersion in the environment	7 7
<b>Deadline 1st stage: 28 March 2023      Deadline 2nd stage: 26 September 2023</b>		

## Land, ocean and water for climate action

Research and innovation under this destination will better equip farmers to make a significant contribution to climate-neutrality, and become more resilient and adapted to climate change.



Acronym HORIZON-CL6-2023-	Topic	Topic budget Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Land, ocean and water for climate action</b>		
CLIMATE-01-4 RIA MAA	Demonstration network on climate-smart farming - linking research stations	20 20
CLIMATE-01-5 CSA MAA 	Pilot network of climate-positive organic farms	5 5
CLIMATE-01-6 RIA	Analysing fossil-energy dependence in agriculture to increase resilience against input price fluctuations	5 5
CLIMATE-01-7 RIA MAA 	Enhancing the sustainable production of renewable energy at farm-level	5 5
<b>Deadline for calls mentioned in this destination: 12 April 2023</b>		



The topic '[Horizon-CL6-2023-CLIMATE-01-4: Demonstration network on climate-smart farming - linking research stations](#)' should collaborate with project '[Climate Farm Demo](#)' ('Horizon-CL6-2021-CLIMATE-01-4') and the project funded under '[Horizon-CL6-2022-CLIMATE-01-03: Demonstration network on climate-smart farming - boosting the role of advisory services](#)', both included in Work Programme 2021-2022.

# Resilient communities and innovative governance models

These destinations will contribute to better digital, social and community-led innovations for resilient and thriving rural, coastal and urban areas. Synergies through living labs, smart villages or EIP-AGRI Operational Groups will be supported.

New governance models that foster knowledge exchange, innovative tools and digital solutions will empower and connect farmers, enabling resilience and sustainability.



**38,5M€**  
**2023**







Acronym HORIZON-CL6-2023-	Topic	Topic budget Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities</b>		
COMMUNITIES-01-1 RIA MAA	Enhancing social inclusion in rural areas: focus on people in a vulnerable situation and social economy	10 5
COMMUNITIES-01-2 IA MAA	Improving rural future through better territorial governance and rural-urban synergies	11 5.5
COMMUNITIES-01-3 CSA	International benchmarking of rural and territorial policies and delivery mechanisms	3 3
COMMUNITIES-01-4 RIA	Investigating the contribution of geographical indications (GIs) to sustainable development and optimising support for newly established schemes	3 3
COMMUNITIES-01-5 RIA	Assessing urban farming impacts	5 5
<b>Deadline for calls mentioned in this destination: 12 April 2023</b>		







**130M€**  
**2023**

Acronym HORIZON-CL6-2023-	Topic	Topic budget Expected grant size (M€)
<b>Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal</b>		
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-2</u> RIA	Advancing analytical capacity and tools to support EU agri-food policies post 2027	6 6
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-3</u> RIA MAA	Towards CAP post 2027 - evidence on nudging farmers to leverage more sustainable practices and behaviours	3 3
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-13</u> RIA MAA 	Open source solutions for edge, cloud and mixed model applications to strengthen production and administrative capacities in agriculture	10 5
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-14</u> CSA 	Digital and data technologies for livestock tracking	5 5
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-15</u> RIA 	Digitalisation in agriculture and forestry: markets for data, and digital technologies and infrastructure - state of play and foresight in a fast changing regulatory, trade and technical environment	5 5
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-16</u> RIA MAA	Digital technologies supporting plant health early detection, territory surveillance and phytosanitary measures	10 5
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-18</u> CSA MAA/TN	Broaden EIP Operational Group outcomes across borders by means of thematic networks to compile and share knowledge ready for practice	4 2
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-19</u> CSA MAA/TN	Thematic networks to compile and share knowledge ready for practice	6 3
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-20</u> CSA MAA/AN 	Developing an EU advisory network on organic agriculture	5 5
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-21</u> CSA MAA/AN 	Developing EU advisory networks to reduce the use of pesticides	4 4
<u>GOVERNANCE-01-22</u> CSA MAA/AN 	Developing EU advisory networks on the optimal fertiliser use	4 4

**Deadline for calls mentioned in this destination: 23 March 2023**

## ► What's new in Horizon Europe?

### EU Missions

Horizon Europe supports EU Missions as a new way to deliver practical solutions to some of our greatest challenges. The Missions entitled 'A Soil Deal for Europe' (M€ 126 for 2023) and 'Adaptation to Climate Change' (M€ 82.81 for 2023) are especially relevant to agriculture, forestry and rural areas. Their next call deadline is 20 September 2023.

- Get more information on all five [EU Missions](#)
- Browse Mission calls on the [Participant Portal](#)

### A Soil Deal for Europe

The Mission entitled 'A Soil Deal for Europe' aims to establish a network of 100 living labs and lighthouses in rural and urban areas, to lead the transition to healthy soils by 2030. This network will co-create knowledge, test solutions and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions, to address key soil health challenges such as desertification, soil carbon preservation, pollution, erosion, biodiversity loss or soil sealing.

- More information: [EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe](#)





## European R&I Partnerships

R&I Partnerships under Horizon Europe follow a new approach that is more strategic, coherent and impact-driven. R&I Partnerships bring a wide range of public and/or private partners and the European Commission together to address some of Europe's most pressing challenges. Some candidate partnerships are especially relevant for agriculture, forestry and rural areas:

- European Partnership for Accelerating Farming Systems Transition: Agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
  - European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare
  - European Partnership for Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate
  - European Partnership for Agriculture of Data
- ▶ Find out more about [Cluster 6 candidate partnerships](#)

## ▶ Helping you get started

You can find all the information about the Horizon Europe calls, the application procedure, application forms and finding partners in the [Funding and tenders portal](#) of the European Commission.



#HorizonEU

- ▶ Any specific questions? Contact your [National Contact Point](#) or the [Horizon Europe Helpdesk & Support Services](#) for guidance, practical information, manuals, and assistance on all aspects of Horizon Europe.
- ▶ More information? Keep an eye on the results from the [Horizon Europe Infodays 2023 for Cluster 6](#).



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